

Message Text

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EUR/NE - MR. ACHILLES

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 069361

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, UK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - LAKER SKYTRAIN

REF: LONDON 4592

1. WHEN ROGERS OF DTI WAS IN WASHINGTON FOR ECAC MEETING ON MARCH 14, HE DISCUSSED THE LAKER QUESTION AT SOME LENGTH WITH WALDMANN AND STYLES. IN EFFECT, HE PROPOSED A DEAL WITH FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:

A. HMG WOULD STATE THAT IT HAD CONCLUDED OPERATION OF SKYTRAIN AT THIS TIME WAS NOT DESIRABLE AND THAT IT WOULD TAKE ANY STEPS NECESSARY TO PREVENT ITS OPERATION FOR "AT LEAST 12 MONTHS."

B. USG WOULD ASSURE UK THAT IT WOULD NOT DENY LAKER PERMIT (OR, IF USG HAD PROCEDURAL OR LEGAL DIFFICULTIES WITH DOING THIS, UK WOULD STATE AS AN ASSUMPTION OR EXPECTATION THAT USG WOULD NOT TAKE ANY ACTION PREJUDICING UK RIGHT OPERATE SKYTRAIN).

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C. CAB WOULD RESTORE LAKER'S AFFINITY CHARTER AUTHORITY.

D. QUESTION OF ISSUANCE PERMIT FOR LAKER WITH APPROPRIATE

CONDITIONS COULD BE PURSUED BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS LATER,
I.E., NOT NOW BUT PROBABLY SOME TIME PRIOR DATE ON WHICH
HMG MIGHT FIND INITIATION SKYTRAIN SERVICE WAS APPROPRIATE.

2. WE EXPRESSED TENTATIVE RELUCTANCE TO PURSUE FORE-
GOING, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD LAKER'S AFFINITY
AUTHORITY. WE HAD IMPRESSION ROGERS MIGHT HAVE BEEN MORE
ON A FISHING EXPEDITION THAN ADVANCING FORMAL PROPOSALS.
WE DID AGREE HOWEVER TO LOOK INTO SITUATION.

3. ON MARCH 21, BRITISH EMBASSY ADVISED US OF PARLIAMENT-
ARY QUESTION AND ANSWER AS REPORTED REFTEL. WE NOTED
THAT ANSWER FELL CONSIDERABLY SHORT OF TYPE OF STATEMENT
ROGERS SAID HMG MIGHT MAKE (PARA 1A ABOVE) AND ASKED
WHETHER A FURTHER HMG STATEMENT WAS CONTEMPLATED IF U.S.
DECIDED TO PURSUE ROGERS PROPOSAL. EMBASSY IMPLIED THIS
WAS POSSIBLE.

4. FOREGOING IS TO BRING EMBASSY UP TO DATE. WE ARE
REVIEWING WHOLE QUESTION AND WILL PROVIDE SUBSTANTIVE
COMMENT LATER. KISSINGER

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